In the Specification:

Amend page 1, lines 10-20 as follows:

United States Patent Application No. 09/930,126 ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~ entitled **SYSTEM AND DEVICE FOR PROVIDING COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN AN OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**, filed on August 15, 2001 in the names of Bruce A. Schofield, Indermohan S. Monga, and Stephen Suryaputra; and

United States Patent Application No. 09/930,119 ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~ entitled **SYSTEM, DEVICE, AND METHOD FOR MANAGING COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN AN OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**, FILED ON August 15, 2001 in the names of Bruce A. Schofield, William R. Hawe, Paul D. Callahan, Indermohan S. Monga, Stephen Suryaputra, and Andre N. Fredette.

Amend page 3, lines 13-24 as follows:

The design of an L3 VPN is generally more complex than that of an L2 VPN. There are three commonly-used interconnections for L3 topologies, namely a full mesh interconnection, a "hub and spoke" interconnection, and a partial mesh interconnection. The full-mesh interconnection does not scale well because it generally requires on the order of $O(N^2)$ L2 point-to-point connections for N L3 devices, and each L3 device generally needs to maintain (N-1) routing adjancencies. The "hub and spoke" interconnection eliminates these problems ~~problem~~, although the resulting traffic concentration at the hub can lead to bottlenecks and a single point of failure. The partial mesh interconnection eliminates many of the problems of both the full-mesh interconnection and the "hub and spoke interconnection," but requires careful and sophisticated network engineering.